

America's

FUTURE

A Weekly Review of News, Books and Public Affairs

Volume 2

April 29, 1980

Number 18

Let South Africa Alone	1
"Ghosts" and "Heroes"	2
Mrs. R and the Commandments	4
Maddening and Brilliant . . . Book Review	5
How Dizzy...?	7
A Different Form	8

LET SOUTH AFRICA ALONE

Reading our newspapers these days, you would think South Africa was *our* big problem. Actually, what is going on there is none of our business - any more than what goes on in the United States is any business of the South Africans. However, situations like this always are seized on by busybody do-gooders. A handful of reliable reporters and commentators has tried to tell the truth about this situation, but unfortunately they are drowned out by the loud blasts of the world-

remodelers. It must be understood that I am not defending violence on the part of either whites or blacks in South Africa. But since there seems to be no relief from endless talk and columns of print on this subject, we might just as well get a few facts straight.

First, we must bear in mind that there ~~is~~ no quick and easy solution to the South African problem. No matter what the communists, the socialists, the do-gooders inside and outside the United

Nations tell you, it will be a great many years before even the beginnings of a solution are reached. And the solution must be found by the South Africans themselves, without interference from outside.

Second, the cleavage in South Africa is not between a native black population, and white strangers who walked in and took the country away from the blacks. South Africa was a virgin wilderness. When Dutch and English emigrants first settled there, it was occupied by a few primitive tribes like the Hottentots. The white settlers built a modern and highly civilized nation, pretty much as our own people did on this continent. It was not until

after that civilization was well under way that the Bantus (the blacks involved in the present troubles) flocked into South Africa to share in its growth. We do not have to condone the violence in that unhappy country in order to understand the feeling of the white citizens when they see what they have built threatened by a backward people.

The third fact to keep in mind is that a great deal of the current trouble is being stirred up by the communists as part of their worldwide trouble-making. The best thing Americans can do is to let the South Africans alone to find their own solution – just as we would demand that we be left alone to solve our own pressing problems.

“GHOSTS” AND “HEROES”

Undoubtedly you have noticed a great deal of discussion of late about America's moral climate. Gloomy souls inform us that we are witnessing a moral decadence, in which everyone is out to get what he can, by any means at hand, and the devil take the hindmost. Now I do not think it is fair to indict a whole population for the sins of the few. The mere fact that

there is so much talk about this problem shows that we still have plenty of people who are aware of a moral and ethical code – a code which enables a free people to live in tranquillity.

However, there can be no doubt that there has been a breakdown in the moral fibre of sections of our population. This is especially true among certain groups of young peo-

America's

FUTURE

Published every week by America's Future, Inc., 542 Main Street, New Rochelle, New-York. A non-profit, educational organization.

R. K. Scott Publisher
 Rosalie M. Gordon Editor
 John C. Wetzel Business Manager

Subscription Price: \$5 per year, \$12 for three years. Ten week trial subscription \$1. Additional copies of specific issues: 1 copy for 15¢; 10 copies for \$1; 50 for \$4; 100 for \$6; 1,000 for \$30 - each price for bulk mailing to one person.

Second class mail privileges authorized at New Rochelle, New York.

ple. I am not suggesting that youngsters should escape blame for their sins, but I do suggest that certain public figures, whom we set up as heroes and heroines, have provided pretty horrible examples for the kids. Here are two instances of what I mean.

In New York City, the district attorney, with the help of an enterprising newspaperman, has just broken up a ghost-writing ring. This ring, at fancy fees, was providing term papers, theses, and even taking examinations, for college students all over the country. This enabled certain students - and even graduates working for advance degrees - to pass subjects and obtain degrees with papers written,

at a price, by someone else.

Of course, it is easy to dismiss this episode by saying that there are always people who will cheat. But bear in mind that this was an organized ring which raked in thousands of dollars. I was surprised and shocked at the extent of this operation. But then I heard about a fine young woman who brought home to me the fact that perhaps these young people did not feel they were doing anything wrong. Their moral sense had been blunted.

This young woman, a student in a religious college, was making some studies in the career of Franklin D. Roosevelt. She was told that most of Roosevelt's speeches had been written by someone else. Her reaction was: 'Well, what's the matter with that - haven't all presidents had ghost writers?' She was very much surprised to be informed that the practice began in a big way with FDR, and continues to this day. She was amazed to be told that presidents like Herbert Hoover, Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt - to say nothing of the great ones like Abraham Lincoln - wrote their own speeches. At least we can say for President Eisenhower that

he is frank about the use of ghost writers. But in Franklin Roosevelt's case - and he is held up as a hero to many young people - others wrote his speeches, but he pretended they were his own. And the myth is carried on by certain newspapers and college professors who express shock at students buying their way through college with ghost-

written themes. For instance, recently the *New York Times*' Sunday magazine section ran a collection of excerpts from the speeches of Franklin Roosevelt. They were compiled by a professor at Columbia University. The title on them was 'FDR in His Own Words.' Yet practically all the words were somebody else's.

MRS. R AND THE COMMANDMENTS

Here is another example. You don't have to be told that this is a political year. And it looks as though the Republicans and the Democrats are going to have a contest to see which can grab the votes of the old people - who are getting to be quite a sizable group in our population. The bauble which is dangled before their eyes is so-called 'free' medical care by the government. Of course, there will be nothing free about it. All of us, including the old folks, will pay for it in increased taxes. And the inflation which always results from more government spending will make it that much more difficult for self-respecting old (and younger) people to provide for their own care.

I won't go into the fact

that great numbers of old people are already provided for under private health insurance plans, or that the states, cities and private agencies do a pretty good job of looking after the really indigent. At the moment, it is the moral aspect of this question I am interested in. What has happened to the family relationship in America? What has gotten into us, when younger Americans can even consider - and in a time of great prosperity too - turning over to the government the care of their ill mothers and fathers.

Well, one thing that has happened is that we have been listening too much to one of those heroines I mentioned. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, the widow of Franklin D., runs a

question-and-answer column in a magazine. Recently, someone suggested to her that it seemed to have become unpopular to say that children owe their parents any gratitude. And Mrs. Roosevelt was asked if she did not think everyone has an obligation to his mother and father. Mrs. Roosevelt replied: 'I think it should be unpopular - I don't

think children owe their parents any gratitude.'

Is it possible that Eleanor Roosevelt has never heard of the Ten Commandments - the Moral Law which is the base of our civilization? For her information, one of those commandments is: 'Honor thy Father and thy Mother.'

- John T. Flynn

Foregoing items covered in Mutual network broadcast 4/24/60

Book Review MADDENING AND BRILLIANT

LAMENT FOR A GENERATION by Ralph deToledano, Farrar, Straus & Cudahy, N.Y., \$3.95.

Ralph deToledano until recently was an associate editor of *Newsweek*. He is also the co-author of one of the best books ever written on the Hiss case (*Seeds of Treason*), and of a biography of Richard Nixon, who is his current hero.

Now he has written, in LAMENT FOR A GENERATION (his own), a brilliant, informative, moving, maddening, profuse book. It generates great heat and also a good deal of cold reasoning, though not quite so much of the latter as the author believes. It is an autobiography - by a 44-

year-old man. Twenty years from now he may write another in which he will reexamine and eliminate a dogmatism perhaps excusable at his present stage in life.

Mr. deToledano has run the gamut - from the near-communism of his college years in the midst of the Great Depression, through socialism, liberalism, and finally to his own brand of conservatism. These years of the 'thirties, 'forties and 'fifties saw stirring events on the public and private stage. Mr. deToledano was an acute observer, and often an active participant, in many. His journey through the years and events,

his revelations about them, and his keen perception of their meaning are of tremendous interest – and never dull.

His disillusionment with the Left is great and, we hope, irrevocable. But his likes and dislikes are gargantuan. He lays about him with a ruthless typewriter, and neither liberals nor conservatives escape his barbs. This is fine. It keeps his readers on their toes. But certain of his concepts are fuzzy, as when he says the advent of a Republican administration made criticism of New/Fair Deal sins academic. Does he mean to imply that Mr. Eisenhower's 'Modern Republicanism' (a pale imitation of the New Deal, but an imitation nonetheless) is not subject to the same critical analysis as its predecessors? The author's tendency to lump all present conservatives with the lunatic fringe – whom true conservatives hold in equal contempt – leads him into some outrageously inaccurate statements.

He excoriates conservatives for example, for not accepting TVA as a fact – 'the water which has been poured over TVA cannot be frightened back over the dam.' Of course it can't. But it is perfectly

good conservative doctrine to advocate selling TVA to private enterprise and thus put a stop to the plunge into government ownership of power – which, by the way, is a major ingredient of the Coercive State that Mr. deToledano so eloquently despises.

This general flailing about at all who do not follow his own new-found conservative creed is especially apparent in his condemnation of conservatives for opposing the Supreme Court's desegregation decrees. He brands them all as racial bigots. He makes no distinction between the professional race-hater and the intelligent conservative whose only interest is the preservation of constitutional government. How does Mr. deToledano hope to fight the Coercive State – by bowing meekly to legislative decrees from the solons of the Court? William Henry Chamberlin, who traveled somewhat the same road from Left to Right, with wiser results, puts the question which Mr. deToledano must one day answer: 'How far is the supposed theoretical desirability of integration offset by the traditional right of states to regulate their own educational systems, of parents to decide

what kind of schools they wish their children to attend?"

Mr. deToledano has traversed a long and tortuous road. At the end he found conservatism of a sort, and faith in God. His chapter on 'The Experience of God' is indeed moving. But it is difficult to escape the feeling that in putting another part of his faith in man - in the person of the Vice-President - he has tailored his 'conservatism' to fit the cloth of his chosen leader. This is dangerous business.

Men change; principles do not.

However, the conservative cause can use an *enfant terrible* or two, and Mr. deToledano amply fills the bill. Read his book. It will delight you, anger you, bring you into violent agreement and disagreement. But it will make you think - and that, after all, is the test of a book which considers in lush (sometimes too lush) prose the great basic issues of these troubled decades.

- Rosalie Gordon

HOW DIZZY...?

"If our city's modern-method educationists have their way, high school students who don't intend to go on to college will be offered a one-semester course in 'group dating, double dating, single dating, steady dating, qualities that make one popular,' and other 'life adjustment' lore.

"This, though it is notorious that New York's public schools often don't teach their unhappy scholars how to read or write. How dizzy can 'progressives' get?" -N.Y. DAILY NEWS

AMERICA'S FUTURE, INC., 542 Main St., New Rochelle, N.Y.

I understand you fill orders for books at regular list price, postage paid. Please mail me _____ copies of the book noted below.

My check for \$_____ is enclosed ☐ Please bill me ☐.

Book I want is _____

NAME _____

Address _____ Date _____

A DIFFERENT FORM

"Failure to grapple squarely with the problem of mounting taxes, expenditures, and debt during the past three decades has produced a growing crisis in fiscal responsibility at all levels of government. Unless the nation faces up to this crisis, it must soon accept a fundamentally different form of government from the one envisioned by the founders of the Republic."

- Robert W. French, president of the Tax Foundation

AMERICA'S FUTURE, INC.
542 Main St., New Rochelle, N.Y.

